WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Implementation of the (Handlooms Reservation of Articles for Production) Act

*123. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the handloom sector in the country is in tatters;

(b) whether focus on exports is responsible for the decline in the handloom sector;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act cannot be implemented because of some technicalities resorted to by mills and powerlooms; and

(d) if so, the efforts the Government propose to make to revive the handloom sector ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Handloom sector is facing competition from powerloom and organized mill sectors. With a view to increasing the competitive strength of the handloom sector, the Government has been implementing a number of schemes for the development of the handloom sector and for welfare of weavers.

(b) No, the focus on exports from handloom sector has contributed to product diversification, design development and overall upgradation of quality of handloom materials in the country. This has created better employment opportunities for handloom weavers.

(c) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 was promulgated by the Government of India with a view to protect the interests of handloom weavers in the country. At present, there are 11 textiles articles reserved for exclusive production on Handlooms *vide* Handlooms Reservation, Order dated 26-7-96.

The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and orders issued thereunder are being implemented by the Central and State Government implementing agencies and wherever any violations are detected, appropriate action under the Act is initiated. During the last

three years 87 FIRs have been lodged by the Central and State implementing agencies.

(d) The Government of India is implementing various developmental and welfare schemes for the handloom weavers, which aim at providing technical support, supply of raw material, welfare measures and support for marketing their products in the domestic as well as international market. These schemes are, namely Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Worksheds-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Scheme including components for health package and insurance coverage,Handloom Export Scheme and Design Development and Training Programme. During the last 3 years the Government of India has released Rs. 32075.15 lakh under various schemes for the handloom sector.

Budget limit for implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme

*124. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any budget limit has been fixed for each State for the implementation of 'Swajaldhara' drinking water project ;

(b) maximum cost-limit of such a single project; and

(c) the benefit received by each State under 'Rashtriya Swajaldhara Yojana', State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The comprehensive guidelines on Swajaldhara issued in June, 2003 stipulate earmarking of upto 20 per cent of the Budget provision for Rural Water Supply Programme of Government of India for Swajaldhara projects. It further stipulates that funds under Swajaldhara will be allocated to the States every year as per the inter State Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) allocation ratio fixed for the year.

The comprehensive guidelines, issued in June, 2003, do not envisage any ceiling in respect of project cost of a single scheme.

A Statement indicating the amount released so far under Swajaldhara Scheme is enclosed.